

City of Santa Barbara
COVID-19 Business Advisory Task Force
July 2, 2020 Meeting Summary

- A majority of the Business Advisory Task Force members were able to join and participate in the meeting with City staff.
- Mayor Murillo opened the meeting and confirmed that City Council took a vote and Santa Barbara City beaches will not be closed for the 4th of July weekend, but there is heightened concern due to the rising number of positive virus cases in the City.
- Nancy Anderson with the County gave a comprehensive update on the Governor's July 1st announcement of new restrictions for 19 California counties, including Santa Barbara County. Indoor operations are prohibited for a minimum of three weeks at local restaurants, wine tasting rooms, and some entertainment-focused industries. The restrictions also require all bars, breweries, pubs and brew pubs to close all activities. Additionally, the County and other agencies will increase enforcement efforts to ensure compliance with all requirements.
- City Administrator Paul Casey was unable to join the meeting. Jason Harris with the City confirmed that City beach parking will be closed for the 4th of July weekend. Parking will remain open on Stearns Wharf and at the Marine Main lot to support live-aboard residents, the marina, and businesses. He also noted the Council's formation of two Council committees: one to evaluate the State St. closure, and the other to oversee permitting process improvements.
- There were various questions regarding the City's position on the Governor's extension of the eviction moratorium and Council's opinion on State Street. Jason responded that the City has not responded to nor discussed the Governor's recent eviction moratorium action, and confirmed that Council is in favor of engaging in a comprehensive process with public input to evaluate the requirements for making the State Street closure permanent.
- The group discussed multiple topics. They questioned how Public Health pandemic data is collected, which patient demographics are included, and how the County presents the data. They discussed the assistance needs of the business community, what increased enforcement means, how the State's new business restrictions and closures might affect local businesses, and whether the restrictions would be extended beyond three weeks. The Federal PPP program extension through August was mentioned, noting that its focus will be on women and minority-owned small businesses. The Mayor sought feedback regarding tenant activity in vacant commercial spaces, and was told there is interest from restaurant and beverage tenants but little interest from retailers. Task force members reported decreased retail activity on Coast Village Road, and noted that the Westside's San Andres street closure had a soft opening last weekend and would be paused for the 4th of July weekend, resuming on Saturdays throughout July.